

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 16, 1997 TIME: 11:30 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: A Rolette County man died as a result of hypothermia. The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continues to receive reports of frost bite injuries and carbon monoxide poisoning resulting from blocked vents and chimneys.
3. DAMAGE: North Dakota remained under a wind chill advisory January 16 after an Arctic storm that started the previous day brought winds of up to 50 miles per hour and wind chills of 60 to 80 below. The N.D. Highway Patrol reported blowing snow resulted in the closure of the following roadways: 1-29, from South Dakota to Canada; I-94, from Montana to Minnesota; U.S. Highway 83, the northbound lane, from Bismarck to Minot; and U.S. Highway 2, from Grand Forks to Lakota. The Highway Patrol has since reopened U.S. Highway 83, I-94, I-29 and U.S. Highway 2.

The State EOC continues to receive reports of damages to include: snow removal problems; trains blocked by snow-clogged rails, preventing the delivery of grain and livestock feed; livestock and wildlife deaths; blocked runways at municipal airports, preventing access for the delivery of emergency medical services; limited fuel supplies; isolated farm families; heavy snow causing collapse or concern for the collapse of roofs in both the public and private sectors; and rural water system problems.

The N.D. Department of Agriculture to date has received a total of 22 requests for assistance. Farmers are reporting cattle losses, blocked access to hay, dwindling feed supplies, snow removal problems and the continued need to dump milk because of snow-blocked access roads to markets.

County offices closed early, and classes were suspended January 15 in many North Dakota schools as a result of the ninth snow storm of the season. Many school superintendents have expressed concern about the number of school days missed and are asking the Governor to forgive those missed days.

Nursing homes report concerns about dwindling coal supplies, rural pharmacies are running low on inventories of critical medications, and blood supplies are at a critical low levels.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) advance team has arrived in Bismarck to establish a Disaster Field Office. Until the office is established, team members can be contacted at the State EOC.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A snow-removal policy for North Dakota has been issued by FEMA. This policy has been distributed to each county by law enforcement teletype.

President Clinton announced on January 15 that North Dakota will receive an additional \$2.7 million, which will be shared with the state and the four Indian reservations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the Farm Service Agency's request to implement the Emergency Feed Grain Donation Program.

Snow removal efforts by counties and the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) were temporarily suspended on January 15 until after blizzard conditions had subsided. N.D. DOT has since reestablished snow removal efforts. The agency is presently using snow blower assets from the Grand Forks Air Force Base, the N.D. National Guard and the Montana Department of Transportation. There are 20 heavy-duty rotary blowers in operation.

County emergency managers directing N.D. National Guard snow removal crews also had suspended operations during the storm. Sixty-seven National Guard soldiers have been activated for snow removal efforts in 17 counties in central and southeast North Dakota. The National Guard has 19 dozers and six snow blowers in use. Crews and equipment have been assigned as follows: Sargent County, one dozer; Richland County, two blowers; and Logan County, two dozers. Two dozers were enroute to Adams County; however, blizzard conditions prevented delivery on

January 15. Previously reported assignments still underway include: Grant County, two dozers; Sioux County, two dozers and a rotary blower on loan from the Minot Air Force Base; Ransom County, two dozers and a rotary blower on loan from the Minot Air Force Base; Dickey County, two dozers; McIntosh County, two dozers; and Kidder County, two dozers and rotary blower on loan from the Minot Air Force Base. The National Guard has received requests for snow removal help from the cities of Ashley, Carrington, Ventura and Wishek.

Additional counties issuing Disaster or Emergency Declarations include Bottineau, McHenry, Oliver and Wells. The cities of Lincoln and Rogers have also issued Disaster Declarations. To date, 50 counties, 11 cities and one Indian Reservation have issued storm-related declarations.

The Stutsman County Sheriff's Office located a missing farmer during a search and rescue mission conducted January 15. The man was reportedly in good condition.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: A Joint Information Center has been established at the State EOC. Media inquiries should be directed to CPT Pat Richards, Public Information Officer for the Emergency Operations Center, or Barb Sturner, FEMA Public Information Officer, at (701) 328-3329.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director